

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/612,515 Confirmation No.: 3533
Filing Date: July 2, 2003
Applicant: Kevin T. Stone et al.
Group Art Unit: 3773
Examiner: Melanie R. Tyson
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUTURE ANCHORS
WITH A VERTICAL EYELET
Attorney Docket: 5490-000335

Mail Stop: Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the Notice of Allowance dated December 24, 2009, Applicants make the following observations.

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner allowing this application. With respect to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, however, Applicants respectfully submit that the elements that the Examiner asserts forms the basis for allowing this application too narrowly define the invention. In fact, Applicants respectfully submit that the elements relied upon by the Examiner, and other elements

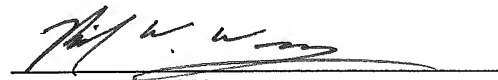
found in the claims, could be characterized more broadly, and in different combinations and sub-combination and still present patentable subject matter. Further, Applicants' invention differs from the prior art of record by features other than the limitations cited by the Examiner.

If the Examiner would like to discuss this matter further, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 24, 2010

By:


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